

**TUITION FEES FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND
ITS APPLICATION ON JOINT APPLICATION SPRING
2017**

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Opinnäytetyöni tarkoituksena on selvittää Euroopan Unionin ja Euroopan talousalueen sekä Sveitsin ulkopuolelta tuleville hakijoille vuonna 2017 lisätyn lukukausimaksun välittömiä vaikutuksia. Pyrin selvittämään mahdollisia vaikutuksia hakijamääriin ja heidän kansallisuuksien muutoksiin sekä tuomaan ilmi muita vaikutuksia. Aluksi esitän eri vaiheet, jotka johtivat lukukausimaksun toteutukseen alkaen lainsäädännöstä ja suoritetusta lukukausimaksukokeilusta.

Lukukausimaksun minimi hinnaksi määritellään laissa 1500€ ja korkeakoulut saivat itse päättää paljonko lopullinen maksu tulisi olemaan. Korkeakoulut olivat myös velvollisia luomaan apurahajärjestelmän, jolla voitaisiin tukea opiskelijoita. Opinnäytetyössäni esittelen suomalaisten ammattikorkeakoulujen maksujen suuruudet sekä selvittämään ja vertailemaan apurahajärjestelmien eroavaisuuksia.

Materiaalina käytän sekundaaridataa opetushallituksen ylläpitämästä Vipunen-opiskelijavalintarekisteriä. Yhteishakujen tiedot vuodesta 2015 alkaen ovat saatavilla kyseisestä palvelusta. Koulutuksen järjestäjät osallistuvat rekisterin ylläpitoon, joten tietojen tarkkuus vastaa yhteishakujen hakijatietoja. Lisäksi käytän suoraan ammattikorkeakouluilta saatua tietoa lukukausimaksuista, apurahajärjestelmistä sekä maksaneista opiskelijoista. Opinnäytetyö suoritetaan kvantitatiivisena aikasarja-analyysinä, jossa pyrin luomaan kokonaiskuvaa kansainvälisten opiskelijoiden määrästä ennen 2017 ja sitten selvittämään lukukausimaksujen käyttöönoton välittömiä vaikutuksia sekä mahdollisia tulevia vaikutuksia ja ongelmia.

Avainsanat: Lukuvuosimaksu, EU ja ETA, apurahajärjestelmä, yhteishaku, Ammattikorkeakoulu, hakijamäärät, vipunen

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The purpose of this thesis is to research the effects caused by implementing tuition fee payment to applicants with non-EU and ETA nationalities. I aim to determine immediate changes to the number of applicants and the possible changes in nationalities and to determine other effects. An overview of events that lead to implementing tuition fee and the performed tuition fee experiment will also be disclosed.

The minimum tuition fee amount was determined to be 1500€ per year with universities having the freedom to decide the amount for themselves and to create scholarship system that will offer monetary aid for the students. Additionally, creating comparison of tuition fee amounts and offered scholarships will and how they have been implemented is one of the research goals.

The data used is secondary data from student selection register maintained by Ministry of Education. After 2015 the applicant's information is available through the database and can be used for qualitative analysis. The goal of this thesis is to create overall view of the joint application process before tuition fee implementation and then to clarify immediate effects caused by it to the number of applicant, their nationalities, and potential effects yet to come.

Key words: Tuition fee, EU and ETA, Scholarship, joint application, university of applied sciences

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1 INTRODUCTION

The implementation of tuition fee for international students outside EU-countries and European trade association countries became mandatory for all Finnish universities of applied sciences to be used after 1.1.2017. It required universities in Finland to decide on what would be the amount of yearly tuition fee that by law was minimum of 1500€ per year. Additionally, universities were required to create a scholarship programs to support students, each university had to decide the amount and how the scholarship system would be implemented.

The data used is from Vipunen student selection register that is maintained by Ministry of Education. Apart when I present the overall situation in Finland I have only included the results from universities of applied sciences as I have been working in the Admission Office of Lapland University of Applied Sciences the last three consecutive summers so I have experienced all three years when application period for international students has been used through Studyinfo service and so I have seen how the 2016 application fee affected the joint application and also how 2017 when tuition fee was implemented affected the joint application process.

In this thesis I will present the overall situation regarding the number of international students in Finland before 2017 and then proceed to compare the results to spring 2017 joint application and how the implementation of tuition fee for international students outside of EU and ETA countries affected the number of applicants, the nationalities of applicants, and the number of applicants who paid the tuition fee.

As a conclusion I express the immediate effects caused by the implementation of tuition fee and potential effects in years to come. Additionally, I want to present my own thoughts regarding the potential administrative problems caused by the different methods of scholarship arrangements.

2 THESIS PROCEDURE

2.1 Focus in thesis

Focus of thesis will be Spring Joint application that contains the application period for international students who wish to apply to Finish degree programs in Finnish Universities of Applied Sciences. This will exclude applications for Master degree programs, university programs and open university of applied sciences applications. The application process begins in January for bachelor level international degree programs and continues all spring until late summer when applicants are informed of their results. However, using overall numerical statistics to cover results from all application periods from previous years will be used when it reasonable to do so.

The aim of this thesis is to analyse the immediate effects of implementing tuition fees for applicants outside of EU and ETA countries. The effects on number of applicants and their nationalities as well as the effects to number of accepted study places. The amount of tuition fee and scholarships in each Finnish university of applied sciences (henceforth called UAS) will also be analysed for their differences in their size and implementation of scholarships-system and how they differ because of each UAS having own power to decide for themselves on how to create them.

2.2 Research Methods

Research problem in this thesis is identifying the immediate effects to international student application period during Joint Application 2017. Research methods used to solve research problems is quantitative statistical analysis. Quantitative research examines numbers and by using those creates numerical comparison. Qualitative research focuses on data collection and data analysis by dividing the gathered data to smaller, more understandable part and analyses them and then proceeds to report the findings. (Mligo, 6-12)

Statistics are collected from Vipunen student selection register that contains statistical data from previous application periods and the statistics are formed by combining statistical data collected by Statistics Finland, the Ministry of Culture

and Education and the Finnish National Board of Education. After 2015 All Finnish application periods have been done through Studyinfo.fi webpage that then transfers the data to Vipunen service once the joint application is over and the data can be published.

Before 2015 Application process was divided between different types of education and the application periods and processes were different so collecting comparable precise data was not done. The number of International students was collected and there is data of the number of international students in Vipunen database since 2001 as the application process for international students had its own application. Nationalities on the other hand were not mandatory information when filling out the application forms and therefore the comparable data from different nationalities cannot be done reliably.

Since 2015 when application process moved into Studyinfo service collecting data has become easier when all applications are being done in one service with same format. Even then during 2015 informing your own nationality was not necessarily mandatory on the application form but it was possible to do so. This leads to large margin of error when comparing nationalities with data from 2015 to 2017 as there are large number of applicants with unknown nationality because applications for universities did not require applicant to inform their nationality. Tentatively the data can be still used to compare total amount and UAS results. (Ulkomaalaiset opiskelijat korkeakouluissa, Pekka Syrjänen)

3 TUITION FEE EXPERIMENT 2010-2014

The goal of the tuition fee experiment conducted by Ministry of Education in 1.1.2010-31.12.2014 was to define possible effects caused by tuition fees to internationalization of universities and appeal and quality on an international level. Additionally, it would be defined for what purpose the money from tuition fees would be used and what additional services would be available for students that paid the tuition fee and how the grant system would work to support their studies. Results would be gained by comparing the results between degree programs with tuition fee and degree programs with no tuition fee to determine the effects on educational level and then conducting surveys to solve the opinions of universities that participated in the tuition fee program. (Tuition fee experiment first report, 2-3)

The tuition fee would not be required from students from EU and ETA countries. EU countries excluded from paying tuition fee are: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Gibraltar. And ETA countries being Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. Additionally, if the applicant has EU blue card stated in the Aliens Act, continuous or permanent residence permit or long-term resident's EC residence permit. (Studyinfo website tuition fee information)

154 degree programs joined tuition fee experiment in 2010 but not all of them introduced tuition fee for their degree programs in the end. In 2011 there were 27 programs that applied tuition fees and in 2012 the amount rose to 42 programs. In 2013 there were 43 programs that applied tuition fees for their international students with increase of just one program from previous year. During the experiment 1785 students were accepted to degree programs that were part of the experiment and 85% of those were accepted into Universities and 15% into university of applied sciences. 65% (1164 students) of all the international

students that were accepted were eligible to pay for the tuition fee. (Tuition fee experiment closing report, 17-18, 21)

During the experiment the tuition fee ranged between 5000€ to 12000€ for Universities and 4000€ to 8000€ for university of applied sciences. The most common amount was 8000€ during the experiment. The amount was decided on evaluating the costs of degree programs and additional costs that the administration changes would cause. In universities during the experiment 848 students started their studies of which 339 paid the tuition fee and of those 287 received the grant that varied from school to school with some even covering the whole tuition fee. For university of applied sciences that participated in the experiment 208 students began their studies of which only 16 paid the tuition fee and 14 received the grant. The cause for this low turnout was that only Master degree level programs in university of applied sciences participated in the tuition fee experiment. (Tuition fee experiment closing report, 22)

The experiment did not achieve sufficient results that it was designed to get, and it was considered a failure. There was insufficient amount of degree programs involved in the experiment. Programs that chose not to apply tuition fee even though they decided to enter the tuition fee experiment justified their choice by quoting the short length of the experiment and the problems it would cause when there would be free programs and paid programs available at the same time. The additional costs for administration was also one of the reasons and the fact that the experiment was temporary and that altering administration to support required scholarship program and charging tuition fee was inconvenient and time consuming. (Tuition fee experiment closing report, 30-31)

Positive results of the experiment were that some Universities felt that the internal administration changes required for the tuition fee experiment resulted in development of internal processes of Universities to accommodate the changes needed for mandatory processes required for implementing tuition fee. Reduction of “useless” applications of applicants that do not participate in the entrance examinations was also reduced which was considered as a positive effect in some universities.

Overall the tuition fee experiment did not have economical effect for the universities as there was too few students that paid the tuition fee for it to matter economically and majority of those also received the scholarship that covered if not all of the tuition fee then big part of it.

The tuition fees for International students outside of EU and ETA countries was regarded as a threat and an opportunity. Strong decline in the number of applicants was feared to be a direct result of implementing tuition fees based on what happened in Sweden with 80% decline in number of applicants after they implemented tuition fees in 2011. At the same time, if the tuition fee was to be implemented then universities could focus more on their marketing to tempt high quality applicants to apply. (Tuition fee experiment closing report, 30-31)

4 CHANGE IN LEGISLATION

In 2014 Alexander Stubb's government prepared draft of possible proposal for changing the university laws to implement tuition fees for international students with non-EU/ETA nationalities. Statements for this proposal were asked from all involved ministries and Board of Education alongside with other involved organizations. As a result, 44 statements gave positive results for the possible tuition fee change, however 18 of them proposed to lower the preliminary cost of 4000€ or allow schools themselves to decide the minimum amount. There were 22 statements that opposed the proposal as it was seen to endanger the internationalization of Finnish Universities and to break the principle of free education in Finland. Tuition fees were also believed to be non-profitable and to be greater cost than advantage. The Education and Culture Committee notified also that the results of Tuition fee experiment could not be used make direct conclusions about the functionality of implementing tuition fees because of the low attendance level of degree programs. (Tuition fee closing report, 30-31)

After the tuition fee experiment in 2015, when Juha Sipilä's government was formed, implementing tuition fees for international students outside of EU and ETA countries was included under the immigration part on Strategic Programme of Prime Minister Juha Sipilä's Government. Graduated students would be encouraged to stay and work in Finland by implementing for example tax deductions for them. (Finland, a land of solutions. Strategic Programme of Prime Minister Juha Sipilä's Government, 41)

Implementing tuition fees for applicants with Non-EU/ETA nationalities was then changed to be one of the leading projects as a part of improving educational exporting and improving availability on all educational levels. (Press release, Osaamisen ja koulutuksen kärkihankkeilla uudistetaan suomalaista koulutusta)

Government proposal for changing the university laws to implement tuition fees was sent to Education and Culture Committee that processed and reviewed it. The Committee emphasised that the tuition fee would only be implemented for

students with nationalities outside EU and ETA countries and that grant system would be mandatory to ensure availability of education for everyone. The main point of Government's proposal was that implementing tuition fees would ensure better position on international education markets. The Committee considered it important for all universities to implement tuition fees for the success of the reform. It would allow equal position for all universities when free education could not be used as a competitive advantage.

Previous experience and knowledge from the 2014 proposal was used when drafting the new proposal and the tuition fee minimum amount was reduced to 1500€ per year. Education and Culture Committee proposed to parliament that the government proposal should be accepted unchanged. Similar objections as in 2014 were raised with main concern being the tuition fee experiment between 2010 to 2014 was insufficient to give enough data to make decision. Increased amount of administrative cost was also brought forth and that the money from tuition fees would not be enough to have any economical effect. (Committee report SiVM 13/2015)

The parliament accepted the proposal and changes to implement Tuition fees to University act and University of Applied Sciences act were added. The change in legislation came to power in January 2016 with January 2017 being the starting time of collecting tuition fees to give enough time for universities to be prepared for it. (Bill 77/2015)

5 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN FINLAND BEFORE 2017

The number of international students in Finnish universities of applied sciences has been gradually increasing from 2001 until 2015. In 2001 there were 2780 International students studying in UAS with 890 new students. Since then the number of international students has been increasing steadily until 2012 when there were 9004 international students and 2855 new students. The number of new students to UAS decreased from 2855 in 2012 to 2500 in 2013 which diminished the rapid increase of international students in Finnish UAS. For the next two years the total number of international students remained steady just over 9000 students with 9086 students in 2014 and 9083 students in 2015. The diminished increase of international students was because of the decrease of new students in 2013 when the number of new students decrease by 355 students which was large enough drop to keep the number international students steady for next three years until the number of graduated students kept on increasing because of high student intake the previous years and the number of international students increased a little to 9187 students. (Figure 1, Table 1)

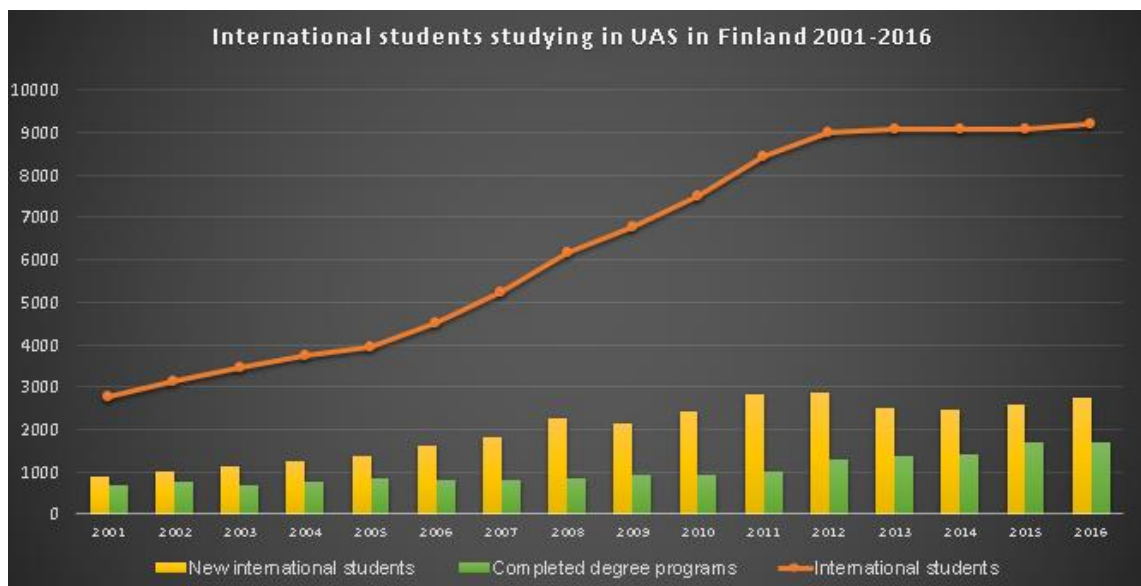


Figure 1: International students studying in UAS in Finland 2001-2016.

The number of students who completed their degree programs follows the changes that happen to the number of new international students, but the effects can be seen roughly 3 years later when they graduate.

year	International students	New international	Completed degree programs
2 001	2 780	890	671
2 002	3 131	996	775
2 003	3 446	1 116	695
2 004	3 726	1 268	778
2 005	3 937	1 355	847
2 006	4 526	1 599	799
2 007	5 229	1 806	805
2 008	6 156	2 278	847
2 009	6 761	2 154	929
2 010	7 491	2 415	928
2 011	8 413	2 815	1 023
2 012	9 004	2 855	1 287
2 013	9 067	2 500	1 380
2 014	9 089	2 484	1 411
2 015	9 083	2 591	1 690
2 016	9 187	2 753	1 696

Table 1: The number of international students studying in university of applied sciences in Finland from 2001 to 2016. New degree students and completed degree students are also included.

Joint application spring 2015 was the first international application period that used the new application process webpage studyinfo.fi. Before that each Finnish application process had their own methods how the applications were made and when application periods were. University, university of applied sciences, university of applied sciences for international programs and Masters Level university of applied sciences programs all had their own application periods and systems that were used to apply. The systems were combined into Studyinfo.fi service that was firstly used in Spring 2015 to apply for international programs. Before 2015 there is no information openly available in form that could be used to compare the number of international applicants. (Pekka Syrjänen, Ulkomaalaiset hakijat ja opiskelijat korkeakouluissa)

The statistics collected by Board of Education does not contain the number of students that discontinue their studies, so the numbers of students do not match with current students plus new students minus completed degree programs.

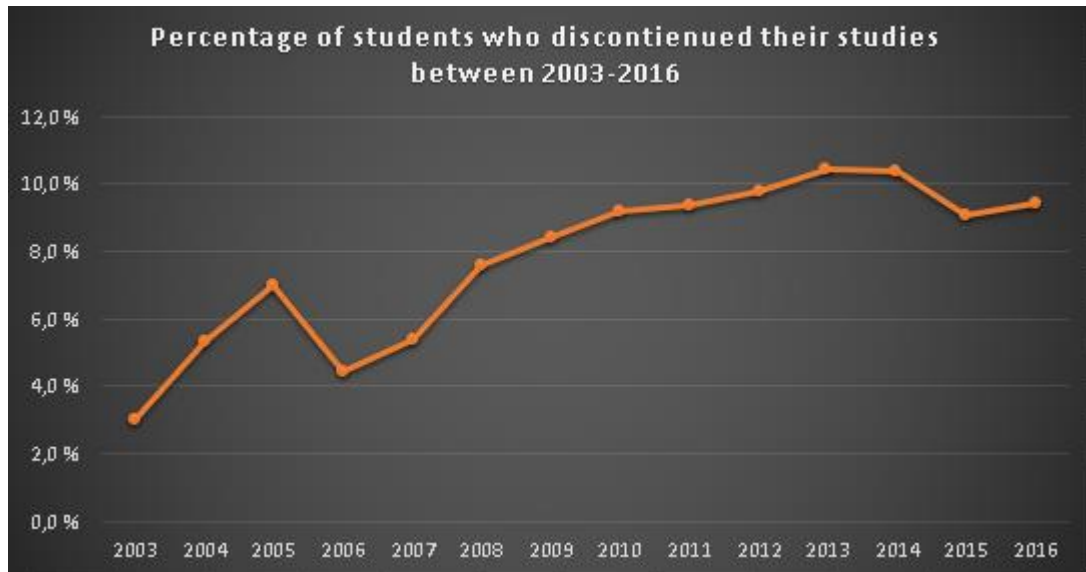


figure 2: Statistical number of students that discontinued their studies.

The statistical number of discontinued students between 2003 and 2009 remained between 3% and 8.4%. Since 2010 the percentage of students that discontinue their studies rose to 9.2% and it remained between 9.1% and 10.4% for each year. The peak of 10.4% was during 2013 and 2014 when over 1/10 of new students discontinued their studies. The amount is a lot since for example in 2014 overall 1054 students in Finnish university of applied sciences were removed from the statistics. Possible reasons are moving to other school in Finland, receiving citizenship status, resigning study place, or expulsion from school. (Figure 3)

6 APPLICANTS IN 2015

After application process for international students moved into Studyinfo service collecting comparable data became possible. Applicants used the same form when applying to different UAS, so information of applicants could be used when analysing the number of applicants, their gender, age, nationality, and other information if necessary.

2015 was the first year when Studyinfo.fi service was used during the application period for international applicants. Each applicant had maximum of six degree programs to choose. Applicants selected their choices with most preferred option being number one and then the rest for the following options. Applicants could apply to several degree programs within same school or select several options where to apply. Each application made to different degree programs is still counted as one applicant, Studyinfo.fi application service provided easy way to identify individual applicants since they were given application numbers. In 2015 Centria UAS had the highest amount on international applicants outside EU and ETA countries with 2705 applicants. Jyväskylä UAS had the second most applicants with 2362. Metropolia UAS had the third most with 2180 and Lahti UAS fourth most with 1973 applicants. The least applicants were in Humanistic UAS with 23 applicants and in Haaga-Helia UAS with 181 applicants. (Figure 4, table 2)

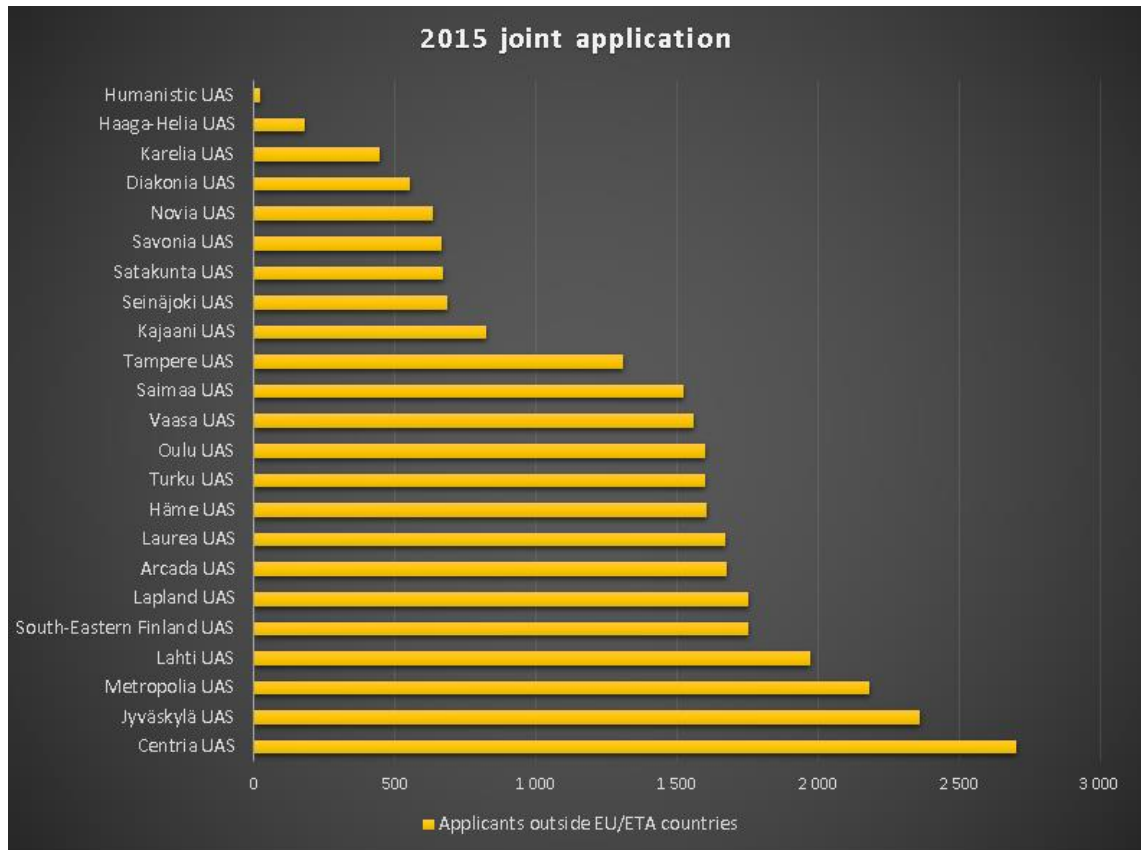


Figure 3: Non-EU and ETA applicants 2015.

There were applicants from 116 countries from non-EU/ETA nationalities during the spring joint application 2015. Most applicants from non-EU/ETA countries were from Nepal with 1143 applicants that was 13,1% of all applicants. Second highest number of applicants with 1104 applicants which was 11,7% of all applicants was Russia. Niger and Vietnam respectively had 1035 and 1024 applicants with 11,9%. and 11,7%. Fifth most applicants were from Ghana with 545 applicants that was 6,3% of all applicants. Five largest applicant countries resulted in total of 55,7% of all applicants from non-EU/ETA nationalities. (Figure 5)

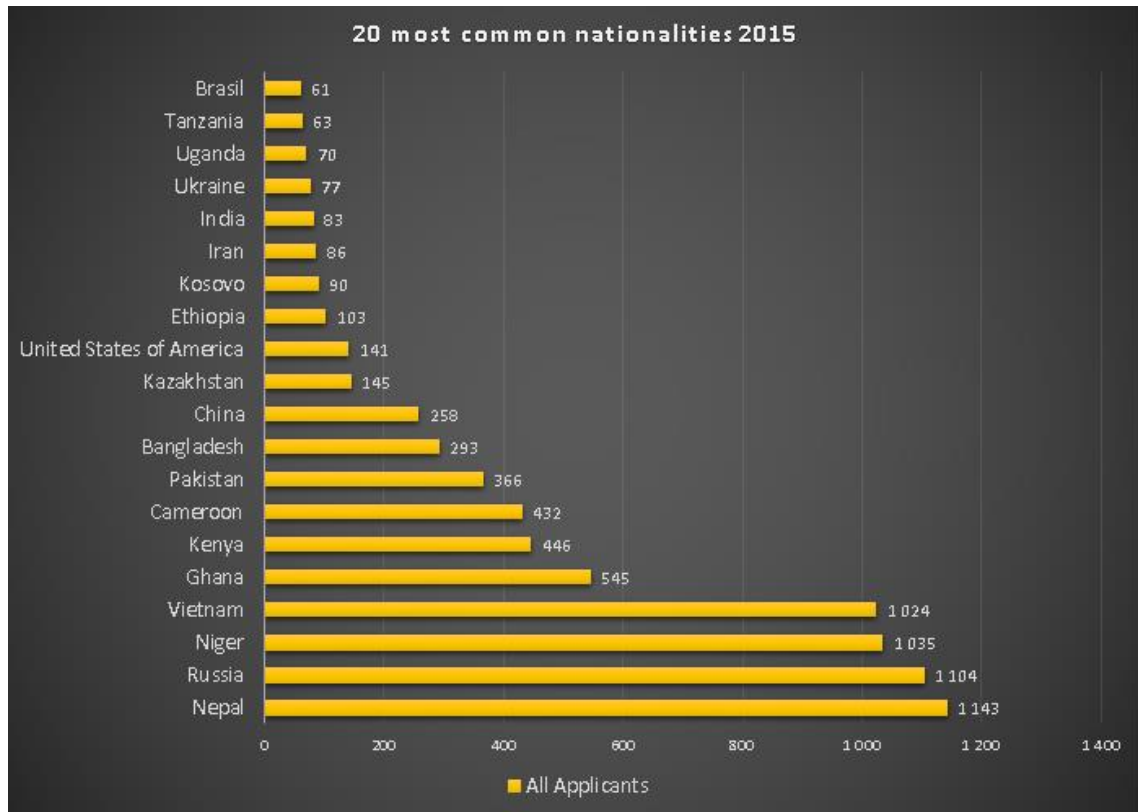


figure 4: 20 highest application nationalities in 2015 to Finnish UAS

The Transition to Studyinfo service was still in process during the application period spring 2015 which lead to 39 applicants not having identified nationality on Studyinfo database. The ministry of Education maintains the database, but the responsibility is within the provider of degree programs to insert the data. Nationalities were not mandatory in applications for university programs so the reason for unknown nationalities is that the applicant chose not to reveal their nationality or some problem with registering the applicant's nationality. For university programs the applicant's nationality was not required and therefore making comparison between UAS and university or including university applicants would result in high number of applicants with unknown nationalities in the comparison.

	First preference applicants	All applicants	Accepted	Accepted study places
2015 total	8 325	8 716	2 035	1 798
Centria UAS	1 015	2 705	228	214
Jyväskylä UAS	770	2 362	131	110
Metropolia UAS	1 131	2 180	247	220
Lahti UAS	435	1 373	129	112
South-Eastern Finland UAS	364	1 752	172	141
Lapland UAS	334	1 751	94	79
Arcada UAS	551	1 678	63	58
Laurea UAS	458	1 672	98	85
Häme UAS	603	1 607	137	107
Turku UAS	378	1 601	91	85
Oulu UAS	231	1 599	87	78
Vaasa UAS	372	1 559	97	90
Saimaa UAS	410	1 521	108	88
Tampere UAS	328	1 311	73	64
Kajaani UAS	103	821	34	27
Seinäjoki UAS	73	686	22	18
Satakunta UAS	120	670	51	47
Savonia UAS	179	664	42	41
Novia UAS	212	632	44	43
Diakonia UAS	139	553	42	38
Karelia UAS	47	443	41	37
Haaga-Helia UAS	82	181	15	14
Humanistic UAS	7	23	2	2

Table 2: Spring 2015 Joint Application international students outside of EU and ETA countries

In the Spring 2015 Joint application there were 8716 applicants and 2035 of them were accepted to study. Highest intake was in Metropolia UAS with 247 accepted students. Centria UAS had second highest number of new accepted students with 228 and South-Eastern Finland UAS third with 172 accepted students. Häme UAS, Jyväskylä UAS, and Lahti UAS had respectively 137, 131, and 129 accepted students. These six schools accepted total amount of 1044 applicants that was 51,3% of all accepted. The remaining 991 accepted students were divided between 16 schools with lowest intake with just 2 students to Humanistic UAS and 15 to Haaga-Helia UAS. (table 2)

7 APPLICANTS IN 2016

In 2016 for international students outside EU and ETA countries there was application fee of 100€ that had to be paid to create an application. The fee was justified for higher administrative expenses caused by verification work on qualifications completed outside EU and ETA countries and to develop the electronic application system. Additionally, the number of applications that only applied but would not participate in entrance exams would be decreased.

There were total number of 5732 applicants during the Spring Joint Application period of 2016. It was decrease of 2984 applicants which was 34,2% drop from previous years Joint Applications 8716. In 2016 Centria UAS remained the school with most applicants from outside EU and ETA countries with 1985 applicants. Metropolia UAS had second highest number of applicants with 1752 and Jyväskylä UAS with third most with 1629 applicants. Metropolia UAS had the highest number of first preference applicants with 1003 applicants. Jyväskylä UAS overtook Centria UAS in the number of first choice applicants from previous year by having 576 first choice applicants and Centria UAS having 531. Lapland UAS dropped to seventh in the total amount of international applicants outside EU and ETA countries with 1250 applicants and to 13th in first choice preference with 231 applicants. Overall the distribution of applicants stayed close to same as in 2015. (Table 3)

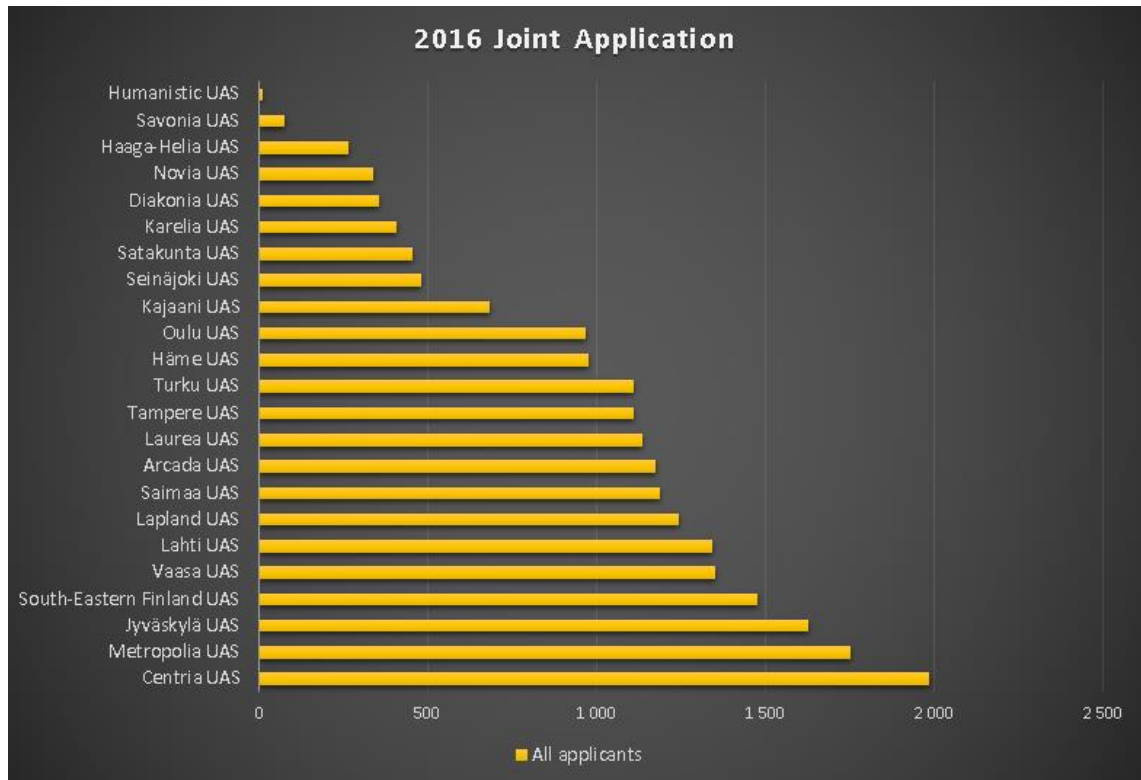


Figure 5: Joint application 2016 all applicants by schools

In 2016 there were applicants from 115 non-EU/ETA countries. The highest number of applicants were Vietnamese with 1363 applicants. Russians were second with 733 applicants and previous years highest Nepal were third most applicants with 625. From Niger there were 419 applicants and 223 from Cameroon. Four largest applicant nationalities were enough to cover 54,7% of all applicants. The decrease of 2984 dropped the number of applicants a lot. In 2015 there were 24 nationalities with over 50 applicants but in 2016 only 14. Vietnamese applicants increased despite the application fee by 184. Russia had a decrease of 421 applicants, Nepal by 526, Niger by 648, and Cameroon by 220. (Figure 7, Table 3)

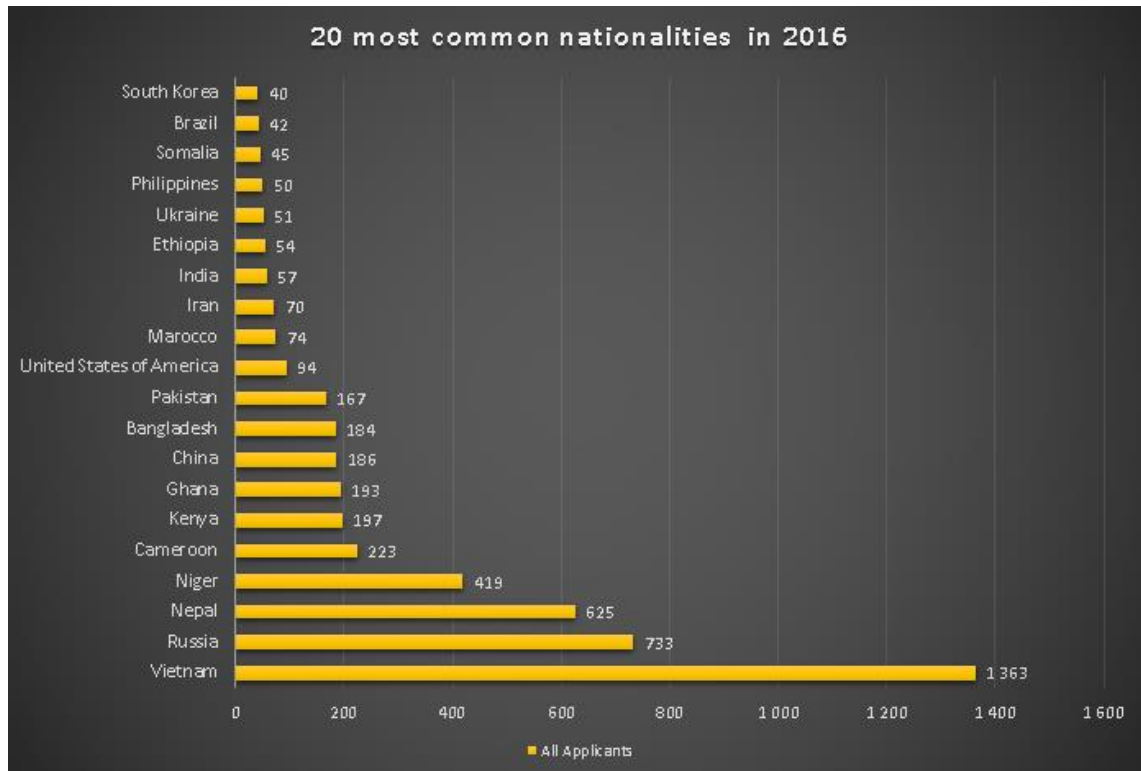


Figure 6: 20 highest applicant's nationalities in 2016 to Finnish UAS

Most applicants were accepted to Centria UAS with 288 new students which was 15,8% of all applicants to be accepted. Metropolia UAS accepted second most number of students with 177 accepted students which was 9,7% of all international applicants outside EU and ETA countries. Häme UAS accepted 150 students that was 8,2% of all applicants. Lapland UAS accepted the fourth most applicants with 134 students that was 7,3% of all applicants. South Eastern Finland UAS accepted 131 students and Jyväskylä UAS 123 and with the six UAS with most accepted students have 55% of all accepted students with 1003 accepted students. (table 3)

	First preference applicants	All applicants	Accepted	Accepted study places
2016 Total	5 409	5 732	1 826	1 713
Centria UAS	531	1 985	288	265
Metropolia UAS	837	1 752	177	167
Jyväskylä UAS	576	1 629	123	115
South-Eastern Finland UAS	290	1 475	131	131
Vaasa UAS	225	1 350	86	81
Lahti UAS	283	1 342	72	68
Lapland UAS	225	1 245	134	117
Saimaa UAS	351	1 189	104	90
Arcada UAS	316	1 177	47	43
Laurea UAS	253	1 136	100	97
Tampere UAS	342	1 111	74	70
Turku UAS	220	1 109	70	63
Häme UAS	270	977	150	139
Oulu UAS	151	970	78	78
Kajaani UAS	139	684	32	27
Seinäjoki UAS	36	481	27	27
Satakunta UAS	56	455	26	26
Karelia UAS	20	407	29	27
Diakonia UAS	99	356	24	22
Novia UAS	110	339	38	36
Haaga-Helia UAS	120	267	12	10
Savonia UAS	37	74	14	14
Humanistic UAS	2	11		

Table 3: Spring 2016 Joint application. All applicants outside of EU and ETA area and the number of selected students in each Finnish UAS.

Regardless of reduced amount of applications because of the implementation of application fee the number of accepted study places only reduced by 4,7% from 1798 to 1713 in 2016. Compared to 2015 application period the distribution of nationalities changed a lot with Vietnamese applicants increasing by nearly 700 and the other largest nationalities decreasing by hundreds.

8 APPLICANTS IN 2017

8.1 2017 International applicants

Legislation change that implemented tuition fee came into power in 2016 but universities had time to prepare their own payment amount and scholarship system until 1.1.2017 before they were required to use it. In Spring Joint application 2017 the applicants were informed about the tuition fee on UAS webpages and on Studyinfo degree program page. During the application applicants were instructed to send a copy of their document that would exclude them from tuition fee payment like EU passport for example. However, these documents became relevant after the accepted applicants were chosen and acceptance letters sent. If the applicant had not yet sent any documents to the UAS they were chosen, then they were required to do so to prove their exemption of tuition fee. By default, applicants with nationalities outside of EU and ETA countries were required to pay the tuition fee if they did not present any document that would exclude them from paying tuition fee.

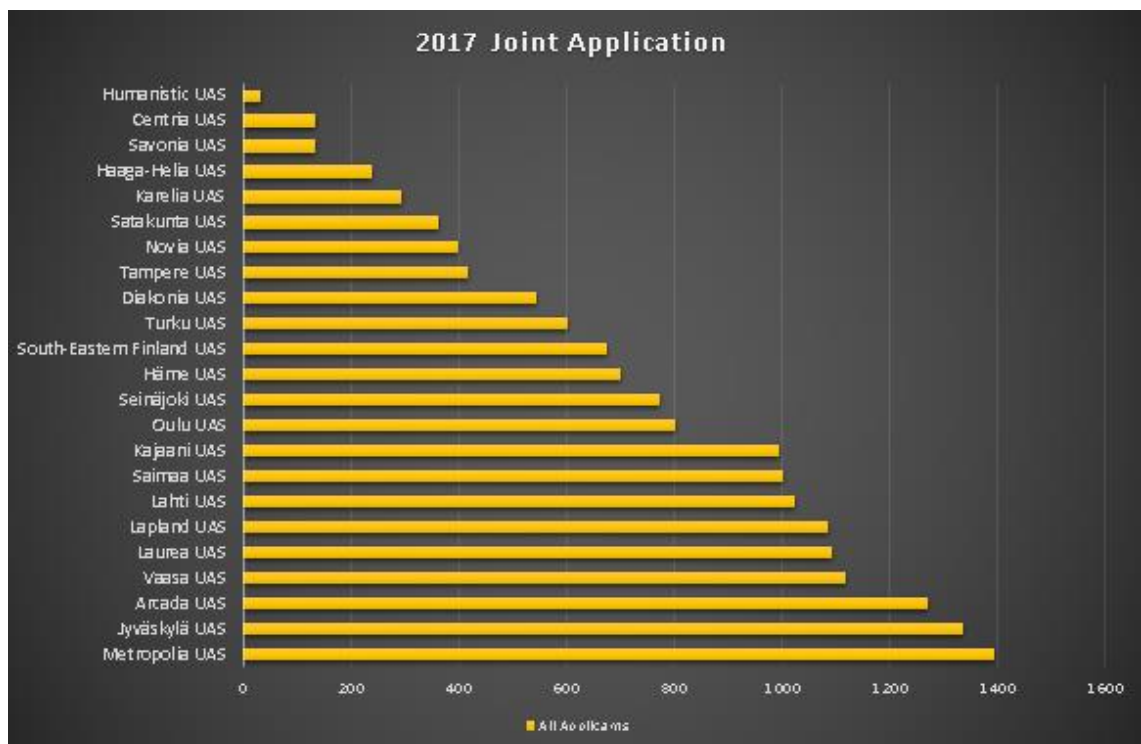


Figure 7: 2017 Joint application by UAS

Metropolia UAS had 1396 applicants outside of EU and ETA countries with Jyväskylä UAS closely behind with 1338 applicants. Arcada UAS had 1271 applicants and Vaasa UAS 1121. The least number of Applicants had Humanistic UAS with 32 applicants and Centria UAS with 132. Both had no bachelor level degree programs beginning this year for international students.

8.2 2017 nationalities of applicants

In 2017 in Joint application of Spring 2017 there were 4850 international applicants outside of EU and ETA countries from 115 different nationalities applying to Finish UAS. Nepal had the highest number of applicants outside of EU and ETA area with 544 applicants. Niger had the second highest number with 498 and Russia third highest with 461 applicants. Largest decrease was Vietnamese applicants that reduced by 1072 form 1363 in 2016 to 288 in 2017. Nepal had a decrease of 81 applicants to 544 applicants. Niger had an increase of 79 to 498. (figure 10)

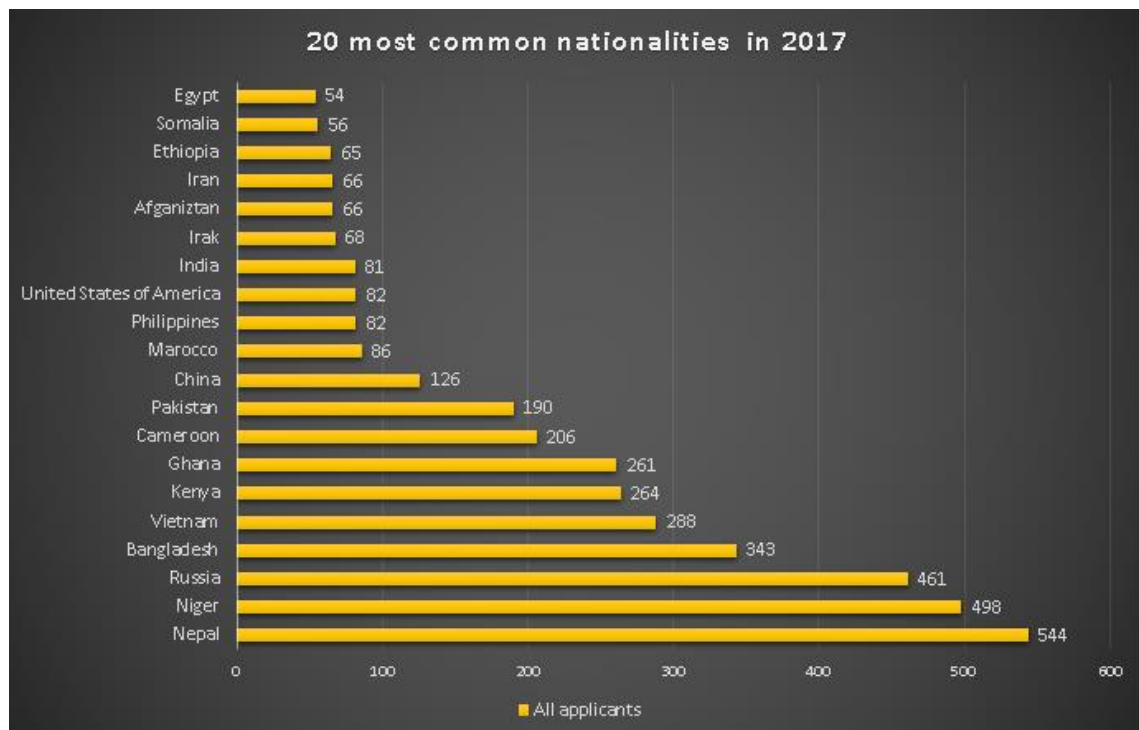


Figure 8: 2017 spring 2017 Joint application 20 most common nationalities of applicants.

Below the 20 highest nationalities there were 95 different nationalities that had total number of 964 applicants that was 19,8% of all applicants. 175 applicants were chosen from those nationalities which was 15,6% of total number of accepted students. (figure 10)

8.3 2017 Student intake

In 2017 there were 1116 accepted applicants from the Joint application. Of all accepted applicants 119 of them were accepted to Metropolia UAS that was 10,7% of all accepted students outside of EU and ETA countries. Saimaa UAS had the second highest number of accepted students with 98 being 8,8% of applicants. Laurea UAS had 97 accepted students, Vaasa UAS 85, and Jyväskylä UAS 77. Lapland UAS accepted 77 and Lahti UAS 69. In seven highest UAS there were 55,7% of all accepted students. The remaining 44,3% were divided for the 16 other UAS in Finland.

	First preference applicants	All applicants	Accepted	Accepted study places
2017 total	4 580	4 850	1 116	1 009
Metropolia UAS	637	1 396	119	108
Jyväskylä UAS	373	1 338	77	68
Arcada UAS	422	1 271	58	52
Vaasa UAS	300	1 121	85	80
Laurea UAS	292	1 092	97	78
Lapland UAS	278	1 085	77	70
Lahti UAS	184	1 024	69	58
Saimaa UAS	311	1 004	98	88
Kajaani UAS	254	995	17	15
Oulu UAS	157	801	33	31
Seinäjoen UAS	136	773	56	51
Häme UAS	234	700	64	57
South-Eastern Finland UAS	159	674	59	50
Turku UAS	142	602	29	27
Diakonia UAS	132	544	21	21
Tampere UAS	109	416	22	21
Novia UAS	127	399	38	39
Satakunta UAS	155	361	63	51
Karelia UAS	46	294	21	20
Häme-Helia UAS	116	237	11	10
Savonia UAS	78	133	11	11
Centria UAS	56	132	2	2
Humanistic UAS	9	32	1	1

Table 4: Student intake 2017

9 TUITION FEES IN 2017

9.1 List of tuition fees

The criteria for Tuition fees was that it had to be at least 1500€ per study year and that there must be a scholarship system available for students and schools themselves had the choice how to implement them. The payments varied between 4000€ and 12000€ with scholarship systems covering from 10% of tuition fee up to covering the whole amount.

For first-year tuition fee some schools decided to grant scholarship at the beginning of study year regardless of amount of completed credits and following years scholarship would be determined by the amount of credits completed the previous year. The others decided to grant the scholarship at the end of the study year based on the credits completed during the current study year. The difference between these two ways to grant the scholarship is that those UAS that included the first-year scholarship into the first payment before studies begin will only have make payments of the scholarship at the last semesters or study years tuition fee as the scholarship is reduced from the amount that the student must pay for the next years tuition fee. The other way is that the student pays the full tuition fee at beginning of their study year and the scholarship is paid at the end when required amount of credits has been completed.

For first year tuition fee there were few exceptions how it was charged and if there were any discounts. Centria UAS for example provided 1500€ discount for first year tuition fee if the applicant accepted the study place within a week of receiving it. Tampere UAS offered 50% discount if study place is accepted within one week. These time-based discounts to tuition fee provide incentive for applicants to act fast once they had received their study place, allowing the UAS to fill out their accepted students list faster and accept students from the waiting list if needed. There was a deadline for waiting list after which no more students would be accepted from the waiting list even if some already accepted students would decline their study places.

Metropolia UAS offered full scholarship for the first year to top half of the first preference applicants based on their results on entrance examination. Offer like this provides extra incentive to select Metropolia UAS as a first-choice preference UAS in Joint Application.

For the following years after the first year the most common way to grant the scholarship is that the student must complete 55 credits to be eligible for the scholarship. Depending on the timing of the scholarship the credits are either calculated by previous study years completed credits or the current study year. Some UAS had progressive system where either first year had bigger percentage of scholarship granted and the scholarship was reduced on the following years or that the covered amount increased in following years. Since the Universities of Applied Sciences had to decide how much the tuition fee would be and how scholarship system was implemented they would be unique to each UAS.

University of Applied Sciences	Tuition Fee amount	Scholarship amount	Criteria for scholarship
Centria UAS	6000€-8500€	50 %	55 completed credits
Diakonia UAS	4000€-6000€	50%*	Not yet implemented
Haaga-Helia UAS	8500€-9500€	20 %	55 completed credits
Häme UAS	8700€-9700€	45 %	Not yet implemented
Jyväskylä UAS	8000-9000	50 %	55 completed credits
South-Eastern Finland UAS	6000-7000	50 %	55 completed credits
Kajaani UAS	6 000 €	50 %	55 completed credits
Karelia UAS	5 500 €	50 %	55 completed credits
Lahti UAS	7900-8900€	50 %	55 completed credits
Lapland UAS	8 000 €	60 %	55 completed credits
Laurea UAS	8 000 €	10 %	60 completed credits
Metropolia UAS	10000-12000€	75 %	55 completed credits
Oulu UAS	8 000 €	50 %	55 completed credits
Saimaa UAS	4 300 €	100 %	55 completed credits
Satakunta UAS	7000€-8000€	Progressive	55 completed credits
Savonia UAS	5 000 €	Progressive	55 completed credits
Seinäjoki UAS	6 800 €	Progressive	55 completed credits
Tampere UAS	9800€-10800€	25%-50%	Not defined
Turku UAS	9 000 €	33 %	55 completed credits
Vaasa UAS	4000€-5000€	5 000 €	55 completed credits
Arcada UAS	6 000 €	maximum 50%	Based on study achievements
Novia UAS	6000€-7000€	50 %	55 completed credits

Table 5: All tuition fee amounts in Finnish UAS.

9.2 Paid tuition fees

There were 1116 accepted applicants outside EU and ETA countries in Spring 2017 Joint Application only to Finnish UAS to Bachelor level studies. Metropolia UAS had the most applicants accepted with 119. Second most was in Saimaa UAS with 98 and third most in Laurea UAS. The least was in Humanistic UAS and Centria UAS with 1 and 2 accepted applicants but there were no international degree programs starting this year but regardless they were included in statistics. Savonia UAS had the least number of accepted applicants that applied to bachelor level studies with 11 accepted students.

2017 Spring Joint Application	Accepted applicants	Accepted studyplaces	Paid Tuition fees
Centria UAS	2	2	0
Metropolia UAS	119	108	9
Saimaa UAS	98	88	73
Laurea UAS	97	78	18*
Vaasa UAS	85	80	75
Jyväskylän UAS	77	68	35*
Lapland UAS	77	70	49
Lahti UAS	69	58	29
Häme UAS	64	57	23
Satakunta UAS	63	51	8
South-Eastern Finland UAS	59	50	51
Arcada UAS	58	52	22
Seinäjoki UAS	56	51	14*
Novia UAS	38	39	17
Oulu UAS	33	31	15
Turku UAS	29	27	4
Tampere UAS	22	21	20*
Uusimaa UAS	21	21	1
Karelia UAS	21	20	14*
Kajaani UAS	17	15	10*
Haaga-Helia UAS	11	10	14*
Savonia UAS	11	11	13
Humanistic UAS	1	1	0
Total	1 116	1 009	514

Table 6: 2017 Spring Joint Application, International applicants outside of EU and ETA countries. Accepted bachelor level studies.

In statistics collected by Studyinfo service from application forms there are options to remove applicants that are excluded from paying tuition fee so accepted applicants in table 6 is collected by removing EU and ETA nationalities which leaves applicants with nationalities that are required to pay tuition fee, however they can still be exempted from paying the tuition fee if they have one of the following documents:

- Passport or identity card to indicate the citizenship of EU/EEA/Switzerland
- EU Blue Card in Finland
- Continuous residence permit card in Finland, Type A permit
- EU Family Member's Residence Card in Finland
- Permanent residence permit card in Finland, Type P permit
- EU residence permit for third-country citizens with long-term residence permit card in Finland (Type P-EU)

Unfortunately, on Studyinfo database if the applicant has one of these documents it is not public information and therefore cannot be used in statistical analysis.

There were total number of 1116 applicants with nationality outside EU and ETA countries and 1009 of those applicants accepted the study place which is 90,4%. The number of paid tuition fees to each Finnish UAS was collected by contacting them by e-mail and phone and according to each of them there were total number of 514 paid tuition fees. Unfortunately, some UAS chose not to release the exact information of the number of paid tuition fees explaining that the process was still ongoing or referring to desire not to reveal financial information. On Table 6 the paid tuition fees with star mark mean that the UAS did not reveal the exact information. Haaga-Helia UAS informed that they had 14 paid tuition fees in Finland and 15 in degree program starting in Mexico. Jyväskylä UAS told that they had 40 applicants that were required to pay tuition fee and "Most of them paid it" which on the graph is rounded down to 35. Kajaani UAS gave the answer as "A dozen" which is assumed to be 10. Karelia UAS answered 14 paid tuition fees but that 3 of them had to be returned. Laurea UAS informed that 18 applicants who paid tuition fee but that 9 of them did not receive student Visa and could not begin their studies with 2 applicants still applying for student visa with outcome unknown. Seinäjoki UAS used different method to get the tuition fee and they are now in process of receiving tuition fees after studies has begun. They had 14 new student that are still required to pay their tuition fees.

With this information there were 514 new students outside of EU and ETA countries that paid tuition fee to their schools which is 46,1% of accepted applicants. This number however most likely will still go down as the rest of the application processes finish but increase in coming years when applicants that had full coverage on their first year tuition fee will began paying. In Sweden when

the tuition fee was implemented in 2011 there were 4600 accepted applicants of which 1350 paid the tuition fee which was 29%. (Tuition fee experiment closing report, 12-14)

10 EFFECTS OF TUITION FEE

10.1 Comparison of all applicants to Finish UAS

When comparing the results of joint Application 2017 to previous application periods only 2016 and 2015 contain comparable data. The previous application periods were done with different application form that contained uncertain data. Nationality for example was not something that was not necessary to be collected therefore making comparison of nationalities before 2015 is not possible.

In 2015 the total number of applicants on springs Joint Application period to Finnish university of applied sciences was 107106 applicants. Since then there was decrease of 8538 students from 2015 to 2016 with 98 568 applicants. In 2017 the number of applicants reduced by 933 to 97 635.

All applicants 2015-2017	2015	2016	Change amount	Change %	2017	Change amount	Change %	Change % 2015-2017
Humanistic UAS	2 954	2 870	84	-3 %	2 497	373	-13 %	-15 %
Novia UAS	3 180	2 552	628	-20 %	2 713	-161	6 %	-15 %
Kaiaani UAS	3 674	3 385	289	-8 %	3 333	52	-2 %	-9 %
Arcada UAS	4 023	3 318	705	-18 %	3 678	-360	11 %	-9 %
Karelia UAS	4 651	4 030	621	-13 %	3 798	232	-6 %	-18 %
Centria UAS	4 903	4 170	733	-15 %	2 320	1 850	-44 %	-53 %
Saimaa UAS	5 006	4 580	426	-9 %	4 298	282	-6 %	-14 %
Vaasa UAS	5 168	4 656	512	-10 %	4 037	619	-13 %	-22 %
Diakonia UAS	5 718	5 326	392	-7 %	6 125	-799	15 %	7 %
Seinäioki UAS	5 745	5 029	716	-12 %	5 149	-120	2 %	-10 %
Lapland UAS	7 335	6 212	1 123	-15 %	5 884	328	-5 %	-20 %
Satakunta UAS	7 412	6 199	1 213	-16 %	5 976	223	-4 %	-19 %
Savonia UAS	8 800	6 964	1 836	-21 %	7 268	-304	4 %	-17 %
Häme UAS	10 233	8 410	1 823	-18 %	8 854	-444	5 %	-13 %
Lahti UAS	10 251	9 567	684	-7 %	8 435	1 132	-12 %	-18 %
South-Eastern	10 350	9 630	720	-7 %	8 561	1 069	-11 %	-17 %
Haaga-Helia UAS	11 660	10 814	846	-7 %	10 166	648	-6 %	-13 %
Oulu UAS	12 476	11 007	1 469	-12 %	10 718	289	-3 %	-14 %
Turku UAS	14 984	14 177	807	-5 %	13 766	411	-3 %	-8 %
Jyväskylä UAS	15 271	14 543	728	-5 %	14 431	112	-1 %	-6 %
Laurea UAS	16 209	15 173	1 036	-6 %	15 840	-667	4 %	-2 %
Tampere UAS	20 873	19 263	1 610	-8 %	18 253	1 010	-5 %	-13 %
Metropolia UAS	26 724	25 877	847	-3 %	24 713	1 164	-4 %	-8 %
Total amount of	107 106	98 568	8 538	-8 %	97 635	933	-1 %	-9 %

Table 7: All applicants to Finnish UAS in 2015-2017 and change amounts and percentage

Metropolia UAS has been the most popular UAS in Finland with Over 25 000 applicants during 2015 and 2016 and just slightly under 25 000 during 2017. The least number of applicants in 2015 was in Humanistic UAS with 2954 and in 2016 in Novia UAS with 2552. In 2017 Humanistic UAS had the least number of applicants with 2497. Between 2015 and 2016 the number of applicants decreased in each Finnish UAS with the biggest drop happening in Savonia UAS where the number of applicants decreased by 1836. Häme UAS had second

highest drop with number of applicants decreasing by 1823 from 2015 amount. The differences between 2016 and 2017 had both increasing and decreasing number of students with highest increase happening in Diakonia UAS where the number of applicants increased from 5326 to 6125. The greatest decrease happened in Centria UAS where the number of applicants decreased from 4170 to 2320. The 44% drop in the number of applicants in Centria can be explained by that there were no international degree programs starting in Autumn 2017 and then so no application period for international students.

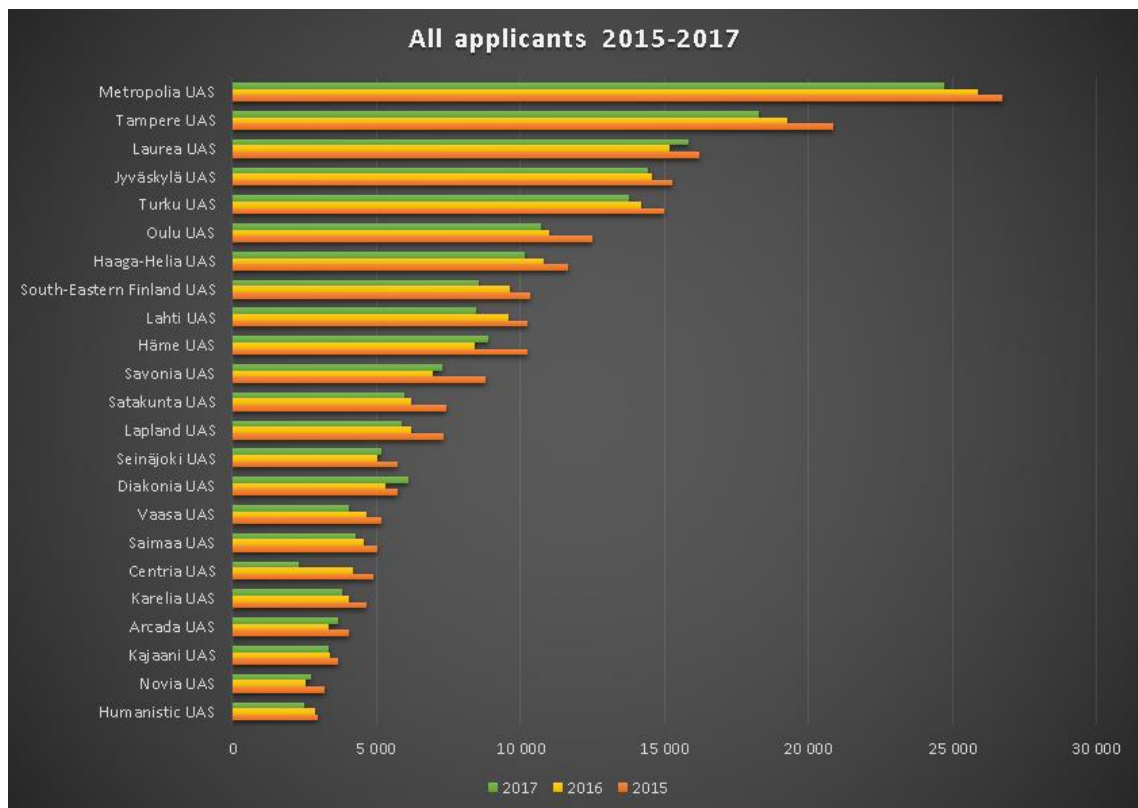


Figure 9: All applicants 2015-2017 to Finnish UAS. sorted by 2015

In Lapland UAS the number of applicants has decreased since 2015. Decrease of 1123 applicants from 7335 to 6212 and then decrease of 328 from 6212 to 5884 in 2017. From 2015 to 2017 the decrease was 20% which was third largest decrease of applicants after Centria UAS 53% and 22% in Vaasa UAS.

10.2 Comparison of applicants outside EU and ETA countries

The number of international applicants outside EU and ETA countries in 2015 before the implementation of application fee and tuition fee in 2017 was 8716. In 2017 there was 4850 applicants. A decrease of 3866 applicants which was 44,4% decrease in two years. Largest decrease was in Centria UAS that had a decrease of 95% in two years, but the reason was that Centria UAS decided to centralize their international application period to previous years autumn so that the 2017 international programs began in Spring 2017. These accepted students did not need to pay tuition fee. If Centria UAS application numbers are removed from the comparison, then the average drop was -492 applicants in each Finnish UAS. Comparable results for Centria UAS are not available yet until next year when their next application period for International Programs begins. By moving the application period for international to Autumn 2016 instead of Spring 2017 Centria had no Bachelor level programs starting during 2017 that would require them to collect tuition fee.

Savonia UAS had the second largest decrease of 80% from 2015 to 2017 with number of applicants reducing from 664 to 133. The decrease mainly happened during 2016 when they had a decrease of 88,9% from 664 to 74. In 2017 the number of applicants then increased to 133. Apart from Centria UAS and Savonia UAS there were four other UAS that had decrease over 50% in number of applicants from 2015 to 2017. Tampere UAS decreased 68,3%, Turku UAS had decrease of 62,4%, South-Eastern Finland had decrease of 61,5%, and Häme UAS had decrease of 56,4%.

All applicants outside of EU and ETA countries 2015-2017	2015	2016	Change from 2015-2016	Change %	2017	Change from 2016 to 2017	Change from 2015 to 2017	Change % 2015-2017
Metropolia UAS	2 180	1 752	-428	-19,6 %	1 396	-356	-784	-36,0 %
Centria UAS	2 705	1 985	-720	-26,6 %	1 32	-1 853	-2 573	-95,1 %
Jyväskylä UAS	2 362	1 629	-733	-31,0 %	1 338	-291	-1 024	-43,4 %
Hame UAS	1 607	977	-630	-39,2 %	700	-277	-907	-56,4 %
Arcada UAS	1 678	1 177	-501	-29,9 %	1 271	-94	-407	-24,3 %
Laurea UAS	1 672	1 136	-536	-32,1 %	1 092	-44	-580	-34,7 %
Lahti UAS	1 973	1 342	-631	-32,0 %	1 024	-318	-949	-48,1 %
Saimaa UAS	1 521	1 189	-332	-21,8 %	1 004	-185	-517	-34,0 %
Turku UAS	1 601	1 109	-492	-30,7 %	602	-507	-999	-62,4 %
Vaasa UAS	1 559	1 350	-209	-13,4 %	1 121	-229	-438	-28,1 %
South-Eastern Finland UAS	1 752	1 475	-277	-15,8 %	674	-801	-1 078	-61,5 %
Lapland UAS	1 751	1 245	-506	-28,9 %	1 085	-160	-666	-38,0 %
Tampere UAS	1 311	1 111	-200	-15,3 %	416	-695	-895	-68,3 %
Oulu UAS	1 599	970	-629	-39,3 %	801	-169	-798	-49,9 %
Novia UAS	632	339	-293	-46,4 %	399	60	-233	-36,9 %
Savonia UAS	664	74	-590	-88,9 %	133	59	-531	-80,0 %
Diakonia UAS	553	356	-197	-35,6 %	544	188	-9	-1,6 %
Satakunta UAS	670	455	-215	-32,1 %	361	-94	-309	-46,1 %
Kajaani UAS	821	684	-137	-16,7 %	995	311	174	21,2 %
Haaga-Helia UAS	181	267	86	47,5 %	237	-30	56	30,9 %
Seinäjoki UAS	686	481	-205	-29,9 %	773	292	87	12,7 %
Karelia UAS	443	407	-36	-8,1 %	294	-113	-149	-33,6 %
Humanistic UAS	23	11	-12	-52,2 %	32	21	9	39,1 %
total applicants	8716	5732	-2 984		4850	-882	-9 866	

Table 8: All applicants outside of EU and ETA countries 2015-2017.

The average decrease of applicants in each Finnish UAS was -222 from 2016 to 2017. From 2015 before the implementation of application fee the average decrease was -588. Excluding Centria UAS result as they had no international degree programs starting in Autumn 2017 the average decrease from 2016 to 2017 was -147 applicants. The combined decrease from both Application fee in 2016 and Tuition fee 2017 was total decrease of 3866 applicants. The larger decrease happened in 2016 when application fee reduced the number of applicants by 2984 and from that the number of applicants fell by 882 in 2017. Just by comparing these numbers the drop from 2016 to 2017 was much smaller than anticipated. In Sweden the number of applicants fell by nearly 80% with both application fee and Tuition fee implemented at the same time. When the proposal to change legislation to implement tuition fees was in review the given objections referred to the large decrease in number of applicants that happened in Sweden. By Implementing application fee first in 2016 the implementation of Tuition fee in 2017 had far lesser effect than anticipated but to say that implementing Tuition fees had large effect is not necessarily correct as the application fee should be included in comparison to realize the -44,4% decrease since 2015.

10.3 First preference and accepted study places

In joint application the applicant had the possibility to apply to any school that was part of Joint application and select up to six different options. Overall there were 466 819 applications to degree programs in all Finnish Universities in 2017.

Divided by the total amount of applicants that leaves 2.80 applications per applicant so average applicants applied to 3 different degree programs.

74,4% off all applicants were accepted to their first preference option and 13,8% to their second., 6,1% form their third preference, 4% from their fourth and 1,8% form their fifth preference. Only 0,9% of applicants were selected from their sixth preference option.

Preference option		All applicants		Selected applicants	Percentage of accepted students
2017 total		466 819		58 312	
1	✔	173 784	✔	43 403	74,4 %
2	✔	110 029	✔	8 029	13,8 %
3	✔	76 730	✔	3 550	6,1 %
4	✔	49 933	✔	1 755	3,0 %
5	✔	33385	✔	1 029	1,8 %
6	✔	22958	✔	546	0,9 %

Table 9: Applications made in 2017 joint application in all Finnish Universities.

In 2015 there was 35 421 applications from international students outside of EU and ETA for Finnish UAS degree programs. it resulted in average of 4 applications for each applicant. In 2016 the number of applications decreased to 25 346 with the decrease in number of applicants to 5732. There was on average 4,42 applications per applicant which was a slight increase over the last year. In 2017 the number of applications was 19 533 with average of 4,03 applications per applicant. (Table 10)

2015 Preference options	All Applications	Selected applicants	Accepted study places	Selected applicantst %
	35 421	2 035	1798	
1	8 356	1188	1052	58 %
2	7 016	381	338	19 %
3	6 206	204	171	10 %
4	5 391	127	109	6 %
5	4 590	100	86	5 %
6	3 862	54	46	3 %

2016 Preference options	All Applications	Selected applicants	Accepted study places	Selected applicantst %
	25 346	1 826	1 713	
1	5 436	1084	1032	59 %
2	4 910	341	307	19 %
3	4 487	153	136	8 %
4	3 963	119	110	7 %
5	3 498	73	66	4 %
6	3 052	76	69	4 %

2017 Preference options	All Applications	Selected applicants	Accepted study places	Selected applicantst %
	19 533	1 116	1 009	
1	4 612	763	700	68 %
2	3 804	169	141	15 %
3	3 397	79	65	7 %
4	2 934	61	50	5 %
5	2 556	51	44	5 %
6	2 230	25	23	2 %

table 10: the number of preference option 2015-2017 in UAS for international applicants outside of EU and ETA countries.

The percentile of selected students from their first preference option has increased slightly over the span of three years. With 66% of accepted applicants from their most desired option.

year	All applicants	Accepted applicants	Non-EU/ETA accepted study places	All accepted study places	Non-EU/ETA accepted study places %
2015	8 715	2 035	1 798	2 457	73 %
2016	5 731	1 826	1 713	2 543	67 %
2017	4 849	1 116	1 009	1 906	53 %

table 11: International applicants outside of EU and ETA countries 2015-2017.

In 2015 there were 2035 accepted students and 1798 of them accepted the study place. total number of 237 students which was 11,6% of accepted students did not accept their given study place. In comparison in 2016 after the application fee there was 1826 accepted students with 113 which was 6,2% of accepted students resulting in 1713 accepted study places. In 2017 with the implementation of Tuition fee the number of applicants fell and so did the number of accepted

students from 1826 to 1116, decrease of 710 accepted students that was 38,9% from last year. Of those 1116 accepted students 1009 accepted their study places, 9,6% of all accepted students. Of all accepted students to degree programs taught in English the number of accepted students fell from 2543 in 2016 to 1903 in 2017. In 2016 the number of accepted students outside of EU and ETA countries was 1826 which was 72% of all accepted students to degree programs taught in English. Similarly, the number in 2017 was 53% with 1116 accepted students out of 1903. (Table 11)

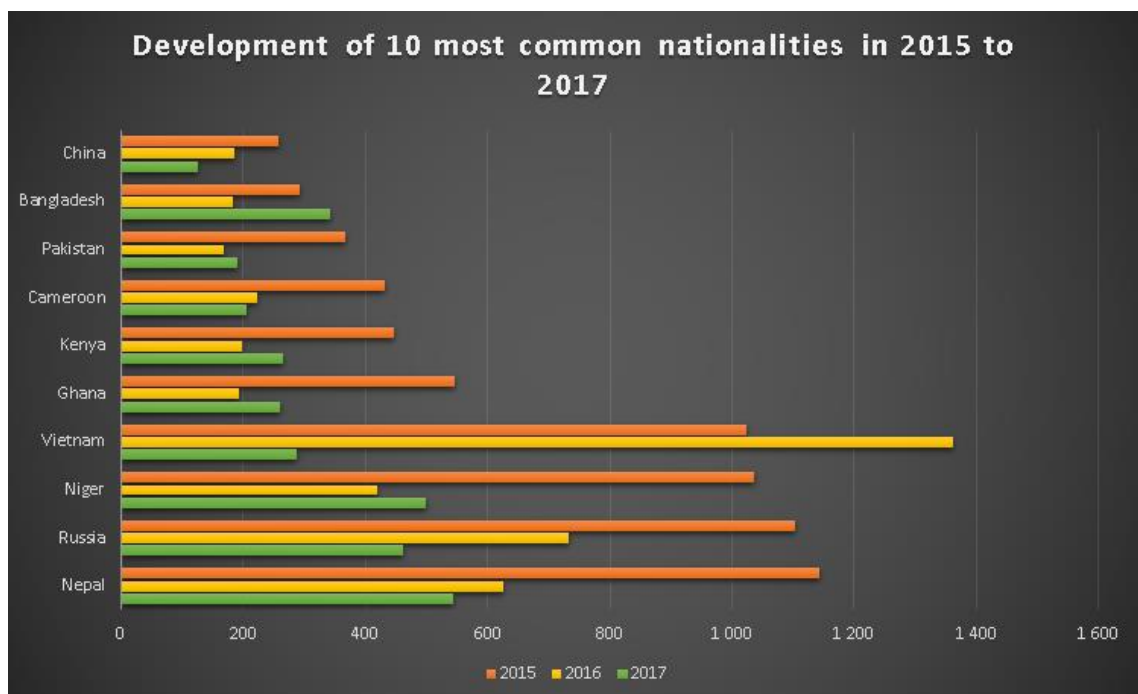


Figure 10: 2015-2017 Changes in applicant's nationalities in 10 most common nationalities in 2017.

Comparing ten highest nationalities outside Eu and ETA countries from 2015-2017 reveals drastic changes in number of applicants. Overall the number of applicants fell by 44,3%. Since 2015 nearly all nationalities have had a drastic decrease in the number of applicants to Finnish UAS. Vietnam however had an abrupt increase of applicants in 2016 with nearly 1400 applicants but then the decrease to nearly 500 in 2017 was significant. Unfortunately, with only 3 years'

worth of data no reliable comparison can be done yet with application fee in 2016 and tuition fee in 2017 causing drastic changes. (figure 10)

11 COMPARISON 2015-2017

The initial fear of losing large number of applicants with the implementation of Tuition fee that was expressed by several organizations and groups during the reviewing phase of the legislation draft did not really come to effect with only 15% decrease in number of applicants outside of EU and ETA countries. The larger decrease happened the year before with the implementation of application fee when the decrease was 34,2% resulting in total decrease of 44,3% in two years. When tuition fee was implemented in Sweden in 2011 the number of applicants started to rise again after 2011 so greatly depending on Finnish marketing for higher education will now reveal to which direction the number of applicants outside of EU and ETA countries will go especially now that free education is no longer available.

Little can be said yet by comparing the changes that happened with the implementation of tuition fee as the application fee in 2016 reduced the number of applicants so drastically. However, the number of accepted applicants outside of EU and ETA countries had a larger change in 2016-2017 than from 2015 to 2017 with decrease of 710 when the decrease from 2015 to 2016 was 209. The application fee had smaller effect on the number of accepted students than the Tuition fee. Likewise, the number of available study places remained almost the same, so the portion of EU and ETA students became larger. The benefits of this change depend on the point of view of each UAS and what nationalities they consider as preferable students.

The number of selected students from their first preference option increased slightly in 2017 compared to the results of 2015 and 2016. From 58% to 68% regardless of it being only 10% increase it emphasises the importance of applicants first preference choice when two thirds of all accepted students receive study place from their most preferable option. The number of applications remained on average 4 applications per applicant but the number of applicants who were accepted from their 3-6 preference option was between 19%-24%, nearly the same amount as accepted students from 2nd preference option.

Tuition fees conclusion

The change in legislation to implement tuition fee came to power already in 2016 but there was for Universities until 1.1.2017 to decide their own payments and create scholarship-systems. The average amount turned out to be roughly 7000€ for bachelor level studies. For master level studies not all universities had different amounts from bachelor level but those who had had the price being about 1500€ more expensive than their bachelor level degree programs. The requirement for scholarship was almost exclusively 55 completed credits during the previous year. Only Laurea UAS had the requirement being 60 credits and Arcada UAS had it based on study achievements without clear answer how it would be calculated. On average the amount of scholarship was about 50% of tuition fee but there were several UAS with either progressive system based on grade point average or number of completed study years. Diakonia UAS had not yet officially finalized their scholarship system but early estimate would indicate it to be 50%. Apart from the other schools Laurea UAS offered only maximum of 10% scholarship of their tuition fee of 8000€, by large margin the lowest scholarship option compared to other UAS.

There were few notable exceptions in how the first-year scholarship were granted. For most UAS it was that either all applicants received the scholarship for the first year or that scholarship would be granted at the end of the year once required amount of credits would be completed. Satakunta UAS was the only UAS that granted no scholarship at all for first year students.

There were few UAS that had "Early bird" system for first year scholarship, meaning that if the applicant confirmed the study place within one week they would get either discount of certain percentile of tuition fee or certain amount to be reduced from the tuition fee. Tampere UAS for example used this system with addition of scholarship based on grade point average after each year from second year onwards. Metropolia UAS had a system where first year full coverage scholarship would be granted based on the results of entrance examination to top half of the applicants who had Metropolia UAS as their first-choice preference.

Scholarship of Vaasa UAS is worth mentioning as their tuition fee was 4000€ for bachelor level studies and they offered scholarship that would be 5000€ if required amount of credits was completed. They were the only UAS in Finland that had scholarship that covered more than the amount of tuition fee. Saimaa UAS offered the possibility of maximum coverage of 100% of tuition fee but the amount would be based on decision of scholarship board at the end of the year without clear criteria's yet.

12 DISCUSSION

12.1.1 Marketing and advertising of degree programs

The Education and Culture committee emphasized on their review the importance of fair competitive position that the tuition fee would bring when no university in Finland could use free education as a competitive advantage. Giving discounts based on applicants first preference choices creates a way to influence applicant's own preference list by offering monetary benefit. If this way of providing discounts to attract first preference applicants becomes widely used also in other UAS then the purpose of preference list that is meant to be based on applicant's own decision in which school they would want to study loses its meaning when instead of applicant's own desire the first preference UAS is selected based on potential benefits that are provided if selected as first preference option.

Since Metropolia UAS was the only UAS to establish a discount for tuition fee if the applicant had them as their first preference choice and were accepted. It is worth following if discounts like this will cause larger shifts when comparing the first preference choices of applicants and if other UAS will also begin to use discounts like these to attract applicants.

Since the scholarship system is brand new in Finnish UAS there are a lot of possibilities for changes and as UAS have free reign over their own scholarship systems even yearly changes are possible and I personally expect changes to happen once universities see how their current system works and if there are any improvements to be done. However, if there are no official report of Tuition fee implementation in 2017 by Ministry of Education for example I doubt that the universities will compare their own results to other university results, especially if universities do not publish the information of number of paid students. Regardless it is worth following how the amount of Tuition fee will develop in each university and how the scholarship system will evolve in coming years.

Vaasa UAS offered scholarship that would cover 125% of their 4000€ tuition fee so in the accepted students receive more money than they pay if they get the required amount of credits for the scholarship. Saimaa UAS also offered the possibility of receiving maximum coverage of 100% of tuition fee based on the decision of scholarship board. I expect that Vaasa UAS will remove the scholarship board system and move into more constant system where scholarship is granted based on completed credits. Vaasa UAS had the most paid students this year with 75 paid tuition fees. To decide the scholarship amount of each of them based on their individual progress and completed credits during the year sounds like a lot of unnecessary administrative work that could be replaced with more constant system. On the other hand, scholarship board would allow more flexible amounts for each student based on their academic progress.

If the number of applicants will decrease even more it is possible that other UAS than Vaasa UAS and Saimaa UAS will start providing possibility for full coverage scholarships hoping to attract more applicants with potential for fully covered tuition fee by scholarship if required amount of credits are done on time. The difference from free education would then only be the possibility of student not completing the required amount of credits and therefore to be required to pay the full amount.

12.1.2 Spring board-effect

With the implementation of Tuition fees, the first-choice preference becomes increasingly important as the tuition fee amounts may vary a lot and applicants must plan carefully what to select as their first-choice option. In a situation where applicant does not receive study place in their first-choice option but somewhere else it is possible to apply for transfer usually after a year of studies or certain amount of credits completed. Before 2017 there have been applicants that if accepted to one of their lower preference options study for one year and then apply for transfer to their first preference university. This sort of behaviour is called spring board effect that applies especially to smaller UAS with fewer applicants and higher chance to be accepted so that the students then after one

year of studies apply for transfer to other UAS if they still desire to study in their higher preference option where they originally wanted to study.

With the implementation of Tuition fees there should be one clear way how the scholarship system and Tuition fees will work if student applies for Transfer. Some schools grant the scholarship at the start of the year and some at the end, the problem arises how transfer students and their tuition fees will be handled if transfer student begins studies in new school after the scholarship has been paid for current year. Some UAS have progressive system where scholarship amount increases towards the end of the studies. Will transfer student receive scholarship as if they were first year students or will it be equal with their completed years. Additionally, will students that apply for transfer studies revoke their application if it turns out that will not be able to receive scholarship if their completed studies will not match completely in the recipient school and therefore not receive the required amount of credits to be eligible for scholarship. Tuition fees and scholarship system have many problems to come once first year of studies is completed and students begin applying to transfer.

Personally, I expect the number of transfer students to remain low in next few years with the system still new and a lot of undecided factors, but in few years if the number of applicants increase with successful marketing strategies the desire for applicants to get into their first preference option might increase and then the option to apply for transfer becomes increasingly popular.

12.1.3 Motivational effect and dropouts

Since studying is no longer free after the implementation of tuition fee it is important to follow the number of students that drop out. Before Tuition fee the amount has been roughly 10% in all Finnish UAS but with tuition fee and possibly better study motivation it is possible that the number of dropouts will be reduced in coming years resulting in better overall success, however the students who paid the tuition fee should be viewed as their own comparable group now since comparing free education against paid education is not comparable on many factors.

Study motivation and satisfaction are factors that should be followed closely now that free education is no longer a marketing advantage. Therefore, it is important to be able to create other factors that could attract more applicants. When applicants ask what benefits there are there should be something to make the applicants interested other than degree programs that the schools offer. Personally, I believe that this is something that will be slowly improved over the coming years. Applicants themselves might have certain set of expectations of what the tuition fee will cover and based on their feedback and wishes there might be benefits that could be implemented into tuition fee like UAS provided internet in student apartments for example and other small things that overall create a favourable impression about the benefits of tuition fee.

13 CONCLUSION

With only one application period done with tuition fee creating a conclusion based on changes that can be compared only to last two previous years I can say that there are several factors that while not confirmed to be results of implementing tuition fee then at least be factors to follow in coming year to see if they were true. It is highly possible that the number of international applicants might increase in coming years from the results of 2017, especially when Centria UAS participates in the joint application for international students. For comparison, in Sweden after implementing tuition fee the number of applicants began increasing slowly. I feel that it is more important to follow the number of accepted students outside EU and ETA countries as it fell by nearly 40% from 2016. The decrease of international students outside EU and ETA countries would however increase the number of Finnish students in International programs and more international students from EU and ETA countries and creating more diversity in groups.

I started this thesis with intention of doing comparison of each nationality and solving possible reasons for happened changes by analysing the global situation but quickly I understood that there are so many factors that affect the number of applicants from different nationalities that finding reasonable explanations for them would be improbable especially with just few years of comparable data available. Instead I focused more on the preference list and the number of accepted students that paid the tuition fee. The information of paid students seems not to be released for public and most UAS wanted to know for what use I would use the information when I contacted them and at first some even declined giving the information citing financial reasons and secrecy about UAS financial information.

My own experience gained by working in Lapland UAS admission services for three summers 2015, 2016, and, 2017 gave me good understanding of Joint application process and I experienced the additional work required by implementing tuition fees, so I was somehow surprised when after asking for number of paid students from each Finnish UAS the result varied a lot with some schools receiving nearly all payments and some only a few. With the result being

that out of the 1009 eligible to pay the tuition fee 50% of them paid it, this would mean that the remaining 50% would have, for example, EU passport that would exclude them from the payment or that the applicant did not start their studies. Unfortunately, I was unable to make a comparison between paid student against eligible to payment student since that would require information not available on Vipunen service so without certain information based on my own experience in admission services I would say that from the remaining 50% only 20% have documents that exclude them from tuition fee. However, this is definitely something to be researched further.

My own experience with Studyinfo service that is being used by admission services allowed me to know exactly what information each applicant's application contained in Joint application. With this knowledge I had a good grasp on what information I would need from the Studyinfo service to create a research about joint application.

Regardless of my preparation and knowledge I was not ready for the lack of information from before 2015. Before combining all different applications to be under Studyinfo service the information collected was not comparable with each other. For example, Application for Universities did not collect the nationality of the applicants. Additionally, the precise information is not stored on any public database, there are reports and graphs from previous years, but comparison turned out to be too unprecise without being certain of all the measures and filters used. Even from my own school there were only a few statistics before 2015, although I did receive lists of applicants from Application period for international students from 2013 and 2014 and even those lists were found from one of the employee's hard drive. Hopefully in future all information from joint application periods before 2015 will be added to Vipunen database but for now that information is not fully available and therefore making a research problematic unprecise.

Personally, I feel that despite all the setbacks caused by lack of comparable data my research has revealed important factors about the results of implementing tuition fee for International students outside EU and ETA countries and possible

indicators to follow in the coming years to determine the long-time effects by implementing the tuition fee.

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